

KARO-ECHO Instructions for Net Control (Preface)

The KARO-ECHO Weekly Net protocols have been structured to practice efficient net procedures conducive to use in the advent of a disaster. Early check-ins, mobile check-ins, and checking in for others are not used.

Calling check-ins by **alphabetical suffix groups** is a long established protocol and should be done AFTER asking if the frequency is clear. Then ask for emergency or priority traffic. Only then, ask for check-ins.

Roll call is not used in the KARO ECHO net. Stations will be asked to check-in by groups according to the **FIRST** letter of their call sign's suffix. For example W6ABC would check in when the net control calls for call signs "suffixes beginning with Alpha through Delta". KARO ECHO net control instructs **phonetic check-ins**, so W6ABC would check-in by voicing: "Whiskey Six Alpha Bravo Charlie.

Stations wishing to check-in are to use their **FULL FCC call signs with phonetics** when checking in. The Net Control Station (NCS) should acknowledge each check-in by repeating their full call sign to allow others on the net a better chance to confirm, if they didn't hear the initial call completely or correctly. Never acknowledge with only "roger" or "copy." Example: The NCS can acknowledge with "Copy KJ6AAT, KJ6DJ, KE6BEE, and NI6A. or "KE6BEE, roger" or "acknowledging KE6BEE." Before moving on to the next group, continue calling for additional check-ins in each group until there are no further check-ins in that group to allow unacknowledged operators (perhaps hidden by doubles) and relays to come in.

The NCS should pause sufficiently (five seconds) to allow multiple stations within each group of suffixes to check-in, acknowledging all that are heard in a group. Don't call for more check-ins without acknowledging all operators that you previously heard.

The NCS should talk clearly, loudly without over deviating, and remain calm. The NCS should be friendly, yet efficient. The NCS should have an outdoor gain antenna (J pole, ½ wave, 5/8 stacked, collinear, or better).

Ask for any relays. After all alphabetic groups have been called, ask for additional check-ins. NCS should then choose an advantageously located operator (with different propagation coverage than their own) who has an outdoor gain antenna to call the net for any additional or missed check-ins from their location, as an acting NCS until they return control to the original NCS. If at any time, the NCS hears "RELAY" the NCS should say, "Relay go ahead" unless emergency traffic is pending. Emergency traffic is always passed first. It is preferred for operators to announce "RELAY" followed by their call sign suffix, or tactical call, so NCS can make an unambiguous ID of the station acknowledged for relay. Example: from operator "Relay, BEE", reply from NCS "BEE go for relay." Otherwise, doubling may occur if multiple operators volunteered a relay at the same time. The presence of a double may, or may not, be immediately apparent to the NCS depending on conditions.

As net control, resolve any doubles that occur, at any time, in an unambiguous manner to avoid repeated doubling. For instance, if you hear part of a call from one operator and part of a call from another, ask the operators to come back one at a time based on whatever identifying information you

have for each of them, even if it is just 1 or 2 letters or a word out of context. If the double is mostly noise, pick out any transmission for which you have identifiable information to work with that allows directing that station to come back first and then ask the other station that was not recognized to come back. Avoid saying "I heard a double come again" as that just encourages a repeat of the initial double.

All operators are encouraged to log all check-ins, including a total count to compare to the one announced on the net as an indication of the accuracy of your log.

Send comments or questions to Howdy, the KARO-ECHO Net Manager, KE6BEE@ARRL.NET

(rev. 07-13-2023)

KARO-ECHO NET CONTROL PROTOCOL

"Is the Frequency IN USE? – Is anyone using this frequency?"

"This is call sign FCC call, first name, Net Control Station initiating the Karo-Echo Thursday Evening EmComm training and preparedness net serving the El Cerrito and Kensington Communities. This net meets every Thursday after the West Contra Costa County EmComm Net completes; but not before 1900 hours local time here on 146.415 MHz simplex. This is a Directed Net. Please do not contact another station unless authorized by Net Control. Use your call sign suffix to signal Net Control that you have traffic. Net Control will then acknowledge and direct you. Break the net at any time if you have EMERGENCY traffic. Voice **"EMERGENCY" followed by your call sign. Net Control will acknowledge and direct you. Please do not leave the net without first informing Net Control.**

"Is there any Emergency or Priority traffic? Please come now." Pause

"None Heard"

If a station is not recognized by Net Control, please notify net control by voicing **"RELAY"** followed by your call suffix. Net Control will acknowledge with the call suffix followed by "go."

"Stations suffixes beginning with Alpha through Delta please check-in using full phonetic call signs only. If you have traffic, please list as "with traffic". Alpha through Delta go now!

Acknowledging: _____, _____, _____, _____, etc."

Pause and repeat the above for additional (A-D) again and again until no further A-D check-ins are heard.

"Stations suffixes beginning with Echo through Kilo, please check-in using full phonetic call signs and list your traffic, if any. Suffixes beginning with Echo through Kilo only, go now.

Acknowledging: _____, _____, _____, _____, etc."

Pause and repeat the above for additional (E-K) again and again until no further E-K check-ins are heard.

"Suffixes beginning with Lima through Romeo, please check-in using full phonetic call signs and list your traffic, if any. Lima through Romeo only, go now.

Acknowledging: _____, _____, _____, _____ etc."

Pause and repeat the above for additional L-R again and again until no further L-K check-ins are heard.

“Suffixes Alpha through Zulu, please call now using full phonetic call signs and list your traffic, if any. Alpha through Zulu, go now.

Acknowledging: _____, _____, _____, _____ etc.”

Pause and repeat the above for any and all additional check-ins again until no further check-ins are heard.

“Are there any relays?” [Pause]

“Net control will now appoint an alternative net control station to ask for any additional or missed check-ins.

alt NCS FCC call please call for additional or missed check-ins.”

[Then net business begins with traffic, meeting/event announcements, education, training, reports, other bulletins. It is encouraged to reach out to any operators who are new to the net with a welcome]

“Is there any outstanding traffic or questions for the net?

Last call before closing for any additional traffic or check-ins. Go now!

Hearing no further traffic. KARO-ECHO thanks all operators for your participation. This net is now free. This is NCS FCC call. The frequency is clear!

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NCS LOG for Callsign: _____ Tactical Callsign: _____ Location: _____
Date _____ Net Freq _____ Incident _____ Resource _____ Tactical _____
Logistics _____

(use a pencil or eraser when stations leave net frequency and return)

Tactical I **FCC** I Location I **Traffic List & precedences** I

Frequency I **QRT**

Callsign I **Callsign** I I **(OK to use multiple lines)** I

I

_____ I _____ I _____ I _____ I _____

_____ I _____

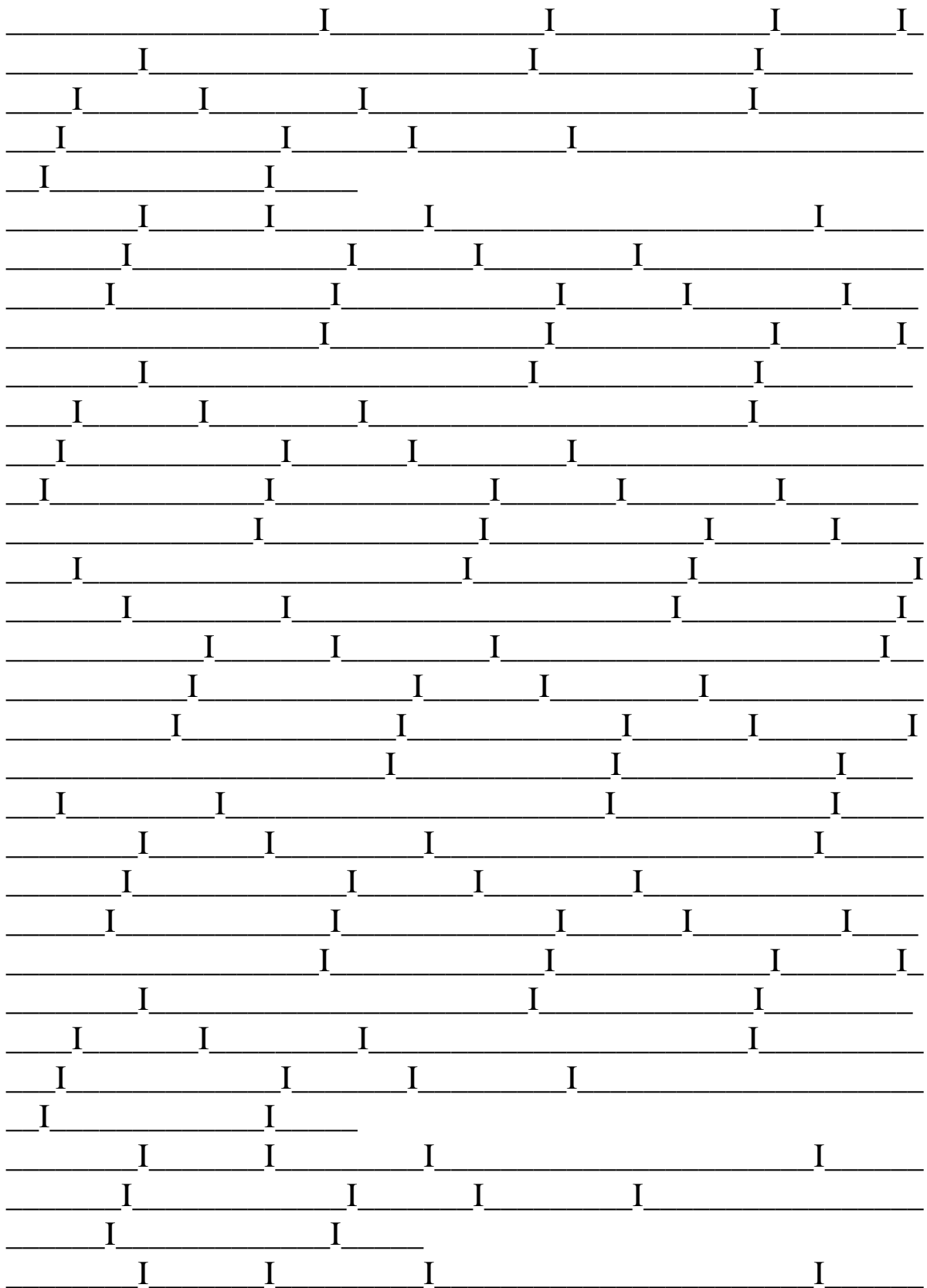
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(rev. 09-01-2019)